

# First Steps

## Indiana's Early Intervention System



First Steps

First Steps provides intervention for infants and toddlers who are at risk of developmental delays.

### First Steps typically gets requests for help when there are developmental delays in:

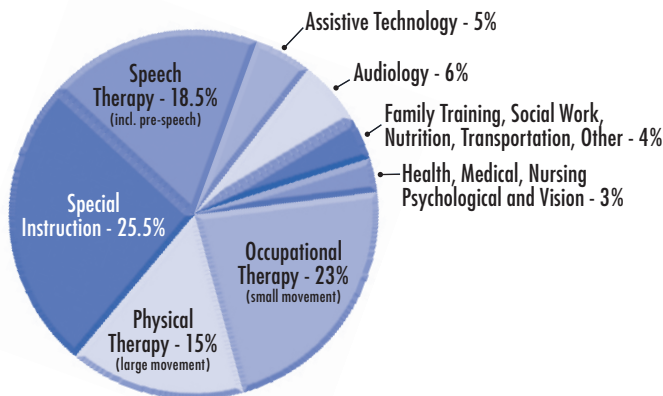
- Growth or weight gain
- Movement ability
- Speech or pre-speech
- Attention, vision or hearing
- Swallowing or eating

### Children are eligible up to age 3 who have:

- developmental delays in speech, movement
- a diagnosed condition with a high probability of developmental delay or
- biological risk factors threatening substantial developmental delay

### Types of Services Provided

Trained professionals provide children with one or more of these services at home or in their community:



**Services are customized for every family and free to low-income families. Higher income families share the cost for some services.**

**Indiana provides early intervention for a higher percentage of infants and toddlers than 46 other states.**

### Early investment in children pays off:

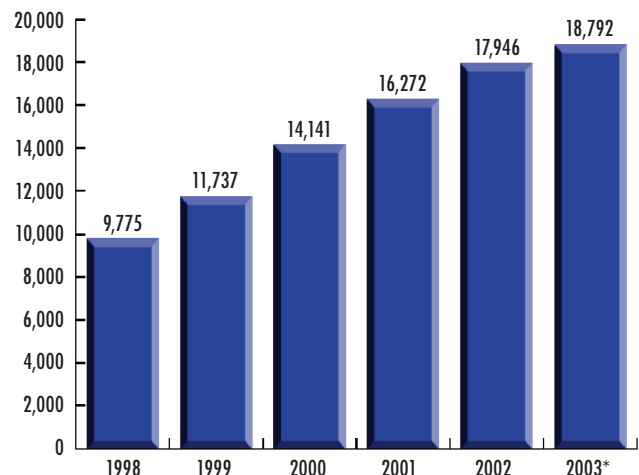
Nationally cited studies show savings ranging from \$4 to \$7 for every early intervention dollar spent.

From December 2000 to December 2001, 10,417 children either aged out of First Steps or reached appropriate milestones before age 3. Of these:

- 23% of children reached their goals before age 3
- 23% of children entered pre-school special education
- 10% of children left at age 3 for other pre-school programs.

First Steps welcomes all referrals.

### Number of Children Served by First Steps



State Fiscal Years; \*Data Incomplete



*"People helping people help themselves"*

For more information, please contact FSSA.  
1-800-441-STEP (7837) • [www.IN.gov/fssa/first\\_step](http://www.IN.gov/fssa/first_step)